



# CHARITIES Committee

Tom Meade, Chairman



The RISAA Charities Committee exists to lend a helping hand to others in need, and is a way of giving back to our community.

## THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION



Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of the Ocean State

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State

Report by  
**CHARLES  
DORE**



Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State is a mentoring organization that serves children ages 7 to 15 from across Rhode Island who are at highest risk for substance abuse, school failure, early parenting and violence; those living in high-risk environments such as dangerous neighborhoods or isolated rural settings, or who come from families facing challenges such as major mental illness, life-threatening or chronic disease, poverty, addiction, and domestic violence. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State (BBBSOS) has been providing mentors to the youth of Rhode Island for over 50 years.

BBBSOS goals are simple - to develop caring, confident, and competent children who stay in school, off drugs, and out of trouble, by matching them with the caring, consistent, safe role models they need.

Formal research shows that children in matches that last at least one year are less likely to begin using alcohol and drugs, less likely to be involved in acts of violence, do better in school, and get along better with their peers and family.

Mentoring has been identified as the single most effective means of positively influencing the future of a child. In fact, local outcomes for Littles mentored by a Big are impressive:

- 82% showed improved self-confidence
- 79.8% were better able to express their feelings
- 66.3% developed better decision-making skills
- 63.1% improved their academic performance

Big Brother Big Sister has several mentoring programs.

**Community Based (Traditional) Mentoring** - pairs at-risk youth between the ages of 7 and 15, in long-term, one-to-one relationships with adult volunteer mentors (who are at least 19 years old).

**Site Based Mentoring** - pairs college students and working professionals with elementary and middle school students who may be in need of additional academic support or personal encouragement in a supervised group setting at a school or community site.

**Big Couples** - A variation of the community based program, which allows a married or partnered couple to mentor together.

**Beyond School Walls** - partner with local elementary and middle schools to bring groups of their students out of the classroom and into the workplace.



Accepting RISAA's donation is George Evans, Director of Development & Community Relations, and Taylor Millspaugh, Development & Community Relations Associate.

### How can you help?

In addition to volunteering to be a

Big Brother or Big Sister, there are several ways you can help. More information is available on the bbsos.org web site or call their office at 401-921-2434.

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